



LIST OF A COLLECTION OF BIRDS MADE ON YSABEL
ISLAND IN THE SOLOMON GROUP BY MR. A. S. MEEK.

BY HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD AND ERNST HARTERT.

(Plates VII. & XI.)

THIS is our third contribution to the ornithology of the Solomon Islands. In Nov. Zool. VIII. 1901, pp. 179-89, we gave a list of 48 species from Kulambangra and Florida Islands; in the same volume, pp. 373-82, one of 57 species from Guadaleanar; now we are enumerating 58 species from Ysabel, Isabel or Bugotn. The first explorers of the Solomons, on the corvettes *Astrolabe* and *Zélée*, made good collections on Ysabel; and recently Canon Tristram, in the *Ibis* 1894, p. 28, and 1895, p. 373 ff., mentioned some birds from that island, and described several novelties. The present collection is evidently the best hitherto made on Ysabel. It contains, besides a series of the valuable *Nasitera nanina* Tristr., *Zosterops metcalfei* Tristr., and other rarities, such remarkable novelties as *Pitta anerythra* Roths., *Podargus inexpectatus* Hart., and *Pseudoptynx solomonensis* Hart.

We hope to be able to continue our notes on birds from the Solomons next year, as there are still a number of islands the ornis of which is but imperfectly known.

1. *Dicaeum aeneum* Jacq. et Puch.

Dicaeum aeneum Jacq. et Puch., *Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. Dis.* (1853) p. 97 ("Iles Salomon, San Jorge").

A series of both sexes. "Iris dark brown, feet slaty, bill black."

2. *Cinnyris frenata* (S. Müll.).

Neetarinia frenata S. Müll., *Verh. Natnarl. Gesch., Land- en d. Volkenkunde* (1843) p. 173, note (type: Lobo, New Guinea).

A fine series of both sexes. "Iris brown, feet and bill black."

3. *Myzomela lafargei* Jacq. et Puch.

Myzomela lafargei Jacq. et Puch., *Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. Dis.* p. 98 (1853) (Solomon Is.).

A fine series of this very rare species. The young male is like the adult female, only a little larger. "Iris dark brown, feet slate, bill black."

(This bird is figured in the atlas to the *Voy. au Pôle Sud*. Figs. 1 and 2 of Plate VII. show the adult male of *Myzomela eichhorni* from Kulambangra, described Nov. Zool. 1901, p. 181).

4. *Zosterops metcalfei* Tristr.

Zosterops metcalfei Tristr., *Ibis* 1894, p. 29, Pl. III. (Bugotn = Ysabel).

A good series. Through the kindness of Dr. H. O. Forbes, of the Liverpool Museum, we have been able to examine the type of this species. It is evident

that the specimen has been in spirits, a fact which unfortunately is not mentioned in the original description, in which the colours are of course incorrectly stated. The upperside is bright olive-yellow, the throat very bright yellow, under tail-coverts pure yellow, the breast and abdomen silky white with a creamy wash along the centre. The white ring round the eye is distinct, but interrupted in front. The lores are blackish. "Iris light brown, bill very dark umber, lighter at base of mandible. Feet bluish slate." The sexes are alike. Wings mostly 60—61, one specimen 62; tail 41—42½ mm.

Z. metcalfi differs from our *Z. floridana* in the presence of the white ring round the eye, and in the slightly darker upper surface.

5. *Edoliisoma erythropygium saturatus* subsp. nov.

Closely allied to typical *E. erythropygium* from Guadaleanar, but with a slightly stronger bill, the *females* with the rump deeper rufous, always with a slaty bluish crown and a constantly darker rufous under surface. Wing: *males* 116—126 mm.; *females* 114—118 mm.

Hab. Ysabel (*type*), Kulambangra and Shortland Islands. This is the bird we referred to in Nov. Zool. VIII. pp. 181 and 374 as occurring on Kulambangra, while the form from Florida is the typical Guadaleanar bird.

Mr. Wahnes collected *saturatus* on Munia and Fanro in the Shortland group.

6. *Edoliisoma holopolius* (Sharpe).

Grauculus holopolius Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1888, p. 184 (Guadaleanar).

Five *males* agreeing with those from Guadaleanar (cf. Nov. Zool. VIII. [1901] p. 374).

7. *Grauculus pusillus nigrifrons* Tristr.

[*Grauculus pusillus* Rams., Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iv. (1879) p. 71 ("Gandaleanar").]

Grauculus nigrifrons Tristr., Ibis 1892, p. 294 (Bugot = Ysabel).

A fine series from Ysabel shows that this form is most closely allied to typical *pusillus*, from which it only differs in a slightly darker shade of the grey colour, and in the barred underparts of the *female* showing the black lines more prominently. The differences stated by Canon Tristram to exist between his "*nigrifrons*" and *pusillus* Rams. are not at all borne out by the large series from both islands now before us. "Iris bright yellow (in both sexes), bill and feet red."

8. *Grauculus hypoleucus elegans* Rams.

[*Grauculus hypoleucus* Gould, P. Z. S. 1848, p. 38 (Port Essington, Australia).]

Grauculus elegans Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vii. (1882) p. 22 (Guadaleanar).

A series from Ysabel agrees with those from Guadaleanar and Fanro. These birds are not typical *G. hypoleucus*, as they are much clearer grey above and whiter beneath. They are nearest to *G. hypoleucus lanioides* Hartert, from Sudest Island, but their wings are a little shorter and the underside whiter, the grey pectoral band being mostly quite invisible, and the central rectrices are distinctly darker, with more of a blackish tinge. Wing varying from 130 to 141 mm., but in

one Florida specimen it is 147, which shows that the Solomon Islands form can only be subspecifically separated. We have measured sixteen specimens from the Solomons now in the Tring Museum.

9. **Graucalus welchmani** Tristr.

Graucalus welchmani Tristr., *Ibis* 1892, p. 294 (Bugotu, Ins. Salom.).

Mr. Meek did not, unfortunately, obtain this bird.

10. **Monarcha castaneiventris** Verr.

Monarcha castaneiventris Verr., *Rev. & Mag. de Zool.* 1858, p. 304 ("Samoa" —*errone!* The specimen was doubtless from the Solomon Islands, like *Halcyon leucopygia* described on the same page).

A series from Ysabel agrees perfectly with those from Guadaleanar (Nov. Zool. VIII, p. 374, *Ibis* 1892, p. 295).

11. **Monarcha brodiei** Rams.

Monarcha brodiei Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W.* iv. (1879) p. 80 (Guadaleanar).

Four birds from Ysabel are perfectly indistinguishable from specimens from Guadaleanar. This is extraordinary, because the birds from Florida (*M. brodiei floridana* nob.) and from Kulambangra (*M. kulumbangrae* nob.) are different.

12. **Myiagra ferrocyanæa** Rams.

Myiagra ferrocyanæa Ramsay, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W.* iv. (1879) p. 78 (Guadaleanar).

Both sexes, fully agreeing with the Guadaleanar birds.

13. **Rhipidura tricolor** (Vieill.).

Muscicapæa tricolor Vieill., *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* xxi. (1878) p. 439 ("Timor" —*Maugé coll.* —*errone!* We substitute Amboina as the original locality).

Common on Ysabel.

14. **Rhipidura cockerelli** (Rams.).

Saudoprocta cockerelli Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W.* iv. (1879) p. 81 ("Gandaleanar").

Three specimens from Ysabel, agreeing with those from Guadaleanar.

15. **Pachycephala astrolabi** Bp.

Pachycephala astrolabi Bp., *Conspl. Ar.* i. (1850) p. 329 (ex Hombr. et Jacq., *Voy. Pôle Sud* Pl. V. f. 3, hab. "San Jorge, fles Salomon").

Also common on Ysabel Island.

16. **Macrocorax woodfordi vegetus** Tristr.

[*Macrocorax woodfordi* Grant, *P. Z. S.* 1887, p. 332 (Guadaleanar).]

Macrocorax vegetus Tristr., *Ibis* 1894, p. 30 (Bugotu = Ysabel I.).

A fine series of this rare Raven from Ysabel. "Iris dirty white; bill milky white with pinkish tinge, tip dark; feet black."

This subspecies only differs from the typical form in its slightly larger dimensions. It is regretable that Canon Tristram should have compared the differences between these two forms to those between a Rook and a Jackdaw, which is surely a great exaggeration, as the subjoined measurements will show.

Macrocorax woodfordi woodfordi (8 specimens measured)—

Wing : 268, 268, 272, 272, 273, 275, 279, 280 mm.

Bill : 57, 58, 69, 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, 61, 62, 62, 62 mm.

Macrocorax woodfordi vegetus (8 specimens measured)—

Wing : 280, 280, 284, 286, 293, 296, 297, 298 mm.

Bill : 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 68 mm.

17. **Hirundo tahitica** Gm.

Hirundo tahitica Gm., *Syst. Nat.* i. p. 1016 (1788, ex Latham, hab. Tahiti).

One specimen, July 1st, 1901, from Ysabel.

18. **Calornis fulvipennis** (Jacq. et Puch.).

Lamprotornis fulvipennis Jacq. et Puch., *Voy. Pôle Sud., Zool.* iii. (1853) p. 81 ("Hes Salomon, Ysabel.")

Lamprocorax grandis Salvad., *Orn. Pap. e Mol.* ii. (1881) p. 460 (Nom. emend. for *L. fulvipennis*).

Calornis maxima Tristr., *Ibis* 1895 p. 375 (Bugotu=Ysabel).

Seven specimens from Ysabel have wings measuring from 149 to 162 mm. Specimens from Guadalecanar are smaller, their wings measuring only 142 to 149 mm. Three specimens from Florida measure 152—160, and 3 from Kulambangra measure 142—157 mm.

From the study of the material at present to hand we do not feel justified in separating any subspecies, especially as some of the skins do not seem to be correctly "sexed," but it is quite clear that all the names, *fulvipennis*, *grandis*, and *maxima*, refer to the Ysabel birds.

19. **Calornis metallica** (Temm.).

Lamprotornis metallica Temm., *Pl. Col.* 266 (1824) ("Timor et Celebes," —*errore!* We accept Amboina as the typical locality, *fide* Salvadori, *Orn. Pap.* ii. p. 447).

A fine series, agreeing with those from other islands.

20. **Mino krefftii** Sel.

Gracula krefftii Selater, *P. Z. S.* 1869 p. 120 Pl. IX. ("Ins. Salomonenses").

A series of both sexes. "Iris bright yellow, feet and bill orange."

21. **Pitta anerythra** Rothscl.

(Plate XI. fig. 2).

Pitta anerythra Rothscl., *Bull. B. O. C.* xii. (Nov. 30th, 1901) p. 22 (Ysabel Island).

"♂ ad. Crown chestnut, darkest along the middle, shading off to yellowish brown on the nape. Sides of head, lores, a narrow line above the eyes, and a broad

band round the hindneck, encircling the crown, deep black : a few feathers on the chin also blackish. Upper surface from the hindneck to the tail dark olive-green. Primaries black, the fourth to the sixth with a white median bar of varying extent, sometimes occupying only one, sometimes both webs ; inner primaries with olive tips and olive-green edges to the outer webs near the tip. Lesser wing-coverts very pale metallic blue ; the next series with metallic tips of a very light green. Rectrices dark olive-green, black towards the base. Upper tail-coverts black, with glossy tips of pale blue ; the adjoining feathers of the lower rump with glossy bluish green tips ; chin blackish, followed by a white throat-patch ; all the remainder of the under surface ochraceous-buff, darkest on the chest, without any red or black. Iris dark brown, feet light bluish slate, bill black. Wing about 100—105 mm. ; tail 38, metatarsus 45, culmen 29."

Mr. Meek sent two specimens, both marked "male," both in moult, one with the crown-feathers all growing. Both were shot on Ysabel Island in July, on the 4th and 6th of that month.

This *Pitta* is very different from all known species of the genus. Its nearest ally appears to be *P. strepitans* from Australia, which, however, has the abdomen and under tail-coverts black and red, a black throat and black line on the crown, and is much larger. There is no close ally of this *Pitta* in the Papuan region.

The genus *Pitta* is quite new to the Solomon archipelago, so that this bird makes one of the most interesting discoveries of Mr. Meek and his friends.

22. *Podargus inexpectatus* Hart.

Podargus ocellatus (errone, non Quoy et Gaim.) Tristr., *Ibis* 1892. p. 296 (Ysabel Island).

Podargus inexpectatus Hartt., *Bull. B. O. C.* xii. (Nov. 30th 1901) p. 24 (Ysabel Island).

"♂. Upperside brown, very finely vermiculated, darker on the rump and head, merging into whitish grey on the scapulars ; wing-coverts with a number of large, roundish, very conspicuous white spots ; quills deep brown, with buff bars across the outer and part of the inner webs ; tail with very obvious bars ; under surface of a vermiculated, irregularly transversely mottled brown colour, spotted with black near the tips of the feathers, but with white spots only in the centre of the breast and on the chin.

"♀. Rufous, but similarly marked to the *male*. Wing-coverts very deep rufous-brown, the roundish white apical spots being therefore very conspicuous. Wing, ♀ 220, ♂♂ 235, 221 ; tail, ♀ 178, ♂♂ 188, 192 : width of bill at gape, ♀ 52, ♂♂ 56, 58 mm. Iris yellowish brown, feet light pale yellow, bill turkey-umber."

One female and two males sent, shot on Ysabel in June 1901.

Canon Tristram mentioned a *Podargus* from Ysabel, which he called *P. ocellatus*, but the New Guinea *ocellatus* is very much smaller.

The *P. inexpectatus* is nearest to *P. intermedius* Hart., from the D'Entrecasteaux group, but differs in having the white apical spots to the wing-coverts much rounder in shape, the *males* being darker and having much less white on the under surface, and no distinct crescents of blackish brown patches on the sides of the throat and foreneck. The upper surface is more uniform, the tail much more distinctly cross-barred than is usual in *P. intermedius*. The upper wing-coverts are very dark, the under wing-coverts less uniform and more sharply spotted. The bill is somewhat,

but not much, broader. *Podargus meeki* is considerably smaller, *P. papuensis* and *P. strigoides* are very much larger, while *P. phalaenoides* is altogether differently marked.

23. **Collocalia esculenta** (L.).

Hirundo esculenta L., *Syst. Nat.* ed. x. (1758) p. 191 (ex Bont., Raj., Rumph., Olearius, "Hab. in China"—*errone.** We accept *Amboina* as the typical locality).

A series from Ysabel.

24. **Macropteryx mystaceus woodfordiana** Hart.

[*Cypselus mystaceus* Less., *Voy. Coquille, Zool., Atl.* (1826) tab. 22 (Dorey, New Guinea).]

Macropteryx mystaceus woodfordiana Hart., *Nov. Zool.* III. 1896, p. 19 (Guadalecanar).

A fine series agreeing with the type and other specimens from Guadalecanar.

25. **Chalococcyx plagosus** (Lath.).

Cuculus plagosus Latham, *Ind. Orn. Suppl.* p. xxxi. (1801, hab. "Nov. Holland.")

A single specimen, marked *female*. "Iris light brown, feet slate-blue, bill umber-brown."

26. **Cacomantis meeki** sp. nov.

Cacomantis supra schistaceus, capite, alis, regione interscapulari viridi-micantibus, canda nitore nonnullo purpurascente-aeneo. Remigium pogoniis internis plaga alba, rectriem marginibus maculis albis triangularibus notatis, rectricibus lateralibus pogoniis internis albo-fasciatis. Capitis lateribus cinereis. Subtus eastaneo-rufescente, gutture cinereo lavato. Subalaribus pallide rufescensibus, margine externo albido.

Al. 146, 148 ; caud. 147, 151 ; rostr. 18 ; tars. 19, 20 mm.

Hab. Insula Ysabel dicta, Ins. Salomonis.

Adult. Above slate-colour, head, wings, and interscapular region with a distinct greenish gloss, the rump and upper tail-coverts pure slate-colour, tail darkest, with some purplish blue tinge ; underside of wings with an oblique white bar, caused by large white patches to the bases of the inner webs of the secondaries and to the middle of the inner webs of the primaries as well as a white patch in the middle of the inner web of the first primary, which stands apart from the oblique bar ; rectrices with white triangular spots along the margins of both webs, smallest on the inner and larger on the outer ones, taking the form of cross-bars on the outermost pair. Sides of head dark grey, underside chestnut-rufous, the throat and some feathers of the breast of one of the specimens washed with grey, under tail-coverts brightest. Under wing-coverts light rufous whitish towards the bend of the wing, so that a whitish patch is conspicuous on the outside of the wing, just above the primary-coverts. "♂ iris pale red, feet brownish yellow, bill umber." "♀ iris light brown, feet dirty yellow, bill number."

* The error arose from the fact that edible nests were (and are) consumed in great numbers in China.



Type No. 3460, Ysabel, 1. vii. 1901, marked *female*.

Wing 146 and 148, tail 147 and 151, bill 18, tarsus 19 and 20 mm.

The above description is taken from two adult birds, sexed *male* and *female*. A third specimen is in monilt, and shows on the underside some whitish feathers which are barred with blackish, above some rufous bars and patches.

In colour this new species agrees almost entirely with *Cacomantis ueruginosus* Salvad., which is probably not distinguishable from the so-called *C. virescens* from Celebes, which should be united with *C. threnodes* (the earliest name of which is, according to Finsch, *sepulcralis*) but it is very much larger, the wing about 30 mm. longer. In size *C. meeki* equals or exceeds *C. flabelliformis* of Australia, which, however, is never so chestnut-rufous below, much paler greyish above, and has more white in the tail. From *C. addendus* Rothscl. & Hart. (Nov. Zool. VIII. 1901, p. 185) from Kulambangra (Type No. 2833 Meek coll.) it differs by its size and the more chestnut-rufous underside.

27. *Rhyticeros plicatus* (Forst.).

Buceros plicatus Forst., Indische Zool. p. 49 (1781, ex Dampier, hab. Ceram).

A pair of this wide-spread species from Ysabel.

28. *Eurystomus solomonensis* Sharpe.

Eurystomus solomonensis Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1890, p. 552 (Ugi).

A series, agreeing with specimens from Guadaleanar, Florida, and Fauro.

29. *Ceyx meeki* Rothscl.

(Plate XI. fig. 1.)

Ceyx meeki Rothscl., Bull. B. O. C. xii. 1901, p. 23 (Ysabel I.).

♂. Crown and sides of head black, with tiny brilliant ultramarine dots near the tips of the feathers and with a longitudinal dark blue patch behind the eye; on the right and left above the bill and on each side of the neck a buffy yellow patch; a broad band from the ear-coverts to the sides of the breast and along the flanks black. Back black, with a broad line of glossy turquoise-blue along the middle, becoming darker and more cobalt-blue on the upper tail-coverts; quills brownish black, yellowish buff towards the base of the inner webs, the secondaries narrowly margined with dull blue on the outer webs. Wing-coverts black, with ultramarine-blue apical spots. Under surface chrome-yellow, somewhat more buffy on the breast and flanks; under wing-coverts yellow, with a black line across the middle of this area; tail black. Wing 60—61 mm., tail 26, metatarsus 10, bill 30 and 37. "Iris dark brown. Feet light pale yellow, bill black." (A. S. Meek.) The bill of the smaller *male* has, in skin, a small whitish tip.

The bird marked "*female*" has the bill 34 mm. long, otherwise agreeing in its dimensions with the larger of the two *males*. The underside, especially the breast, and the patches on the forehead and neck are darker and more ochraceous. The bill has a small white tip. Only these two *males* and the one *female*, all apparently adult, were shot in June 1901 on Ysabel Island.

30. **Halcyon saurophaga** Gould.

Halcyon saurophaga Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1843, p. 103 (New Guinea).

The bills of Ysabel specimens measure from 48 to 56 mm. Equally short-billed individuals occur in New Guinea and other places, but the majority of them have the bills much longer, generally averaging from 58 to 66 mm.

31. **Halcyon tristrami** Layard.

Halcyon tristrami Layard, *Ibis* 1880, p. 460 Pl. XV. (San Cristoval ?)

Four skins, two marked as *males*, two as *females*. The "males," like those from Kulambangra, have the underside deep cinnamon, while the "females" have the middle of the abdomen whitish; the two latter are, however, somewhat immature. The Ysabel birds are the darkest we have seen, while two from New Ireland before us are almost white below, though these latter are nearly approached by two specimens from the Shortland Islands.

32. **Halcyon leucopygius** (Verr.).

Cyanalcyon leucopygius Verr., *Rev. et Mag. de Zool.* 1858, p. 385 (Solomon Is.). Seven specimens, which do not differ from our specimens from other islands.

33. **Halcyon sanctus** Vig. & Horsf.

Halcyon sanctus Vig. & Horsf., *Trans. Linn. Soc. London* xv. (1826) p. 206 (Australia).

A series, as variable as usual.

34. **Eos cardinalis** (Gray).

Lorius cardinalis G. R. Gray, *Gen. B.*, App. (1849) p. 20 (ex Hombr. et Jacq., hab. "iles Salomon").

A good series from Ysabel. "Iris dark red, bill dark red, feet black."

35. **Geoffroyus heteroclitus** (Hombr. et Jacq.).

Psittacus Geoffroyi heteroclitus Hombr. et Jacq., *Ann. Sc. Nat. L.* ser. xvi. (1841) p. 319 ("Saint George et Ysabel, Iles Salomon").

A series like those from other islands.

36. **Eclectus pectoralis solomonensis** Rothscl. & Hart.

Eclectus pectoralis solomonensis Rothscl. & Hart., *Nov. Zool.* 1901, p. 82 (Solomon Is., type Fauro).

Two fine *females*. "Iris dark brown, feet slate, bill black." One of these birds shows considerably more bluish green on the outer webs of the primaries than our other three *females*.

37. **Cacatua duorpsii** Jacq. et Pucher.

Cacatua Duorpsii Jacq. et Pucher., *Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool.* iii. (1852) p. 108 ("Iles Salomon").

A good series, like specimens from other islands. "Iris-brownish red, feet slaty-black, bill light zinc-blue."

38. *Nasiterna nanina* Tristr.

Nasiterna nanina Tristr. *Ibis* 1891. p. 608 (Bugotu=Ysabel Island).

In Nov. Zool. VIII. (1901) p. 188 we doubtfully referred a series from Kulambangra to *N. nanina*, and have given some explanations about the type of *N. nanina*, from which no measurements can be taken, as its wing and tail-feathers are not much more than half grown. We are now fortunate enough to have received a series of four from Ysabel, which we are justified in considering to be typical *nanina*, and we find that they differ from those from Kulambangra.

Description of *Nasiterna nanina* Tristr. from Ysabel: ♂ ad. Upper side grass-green, somewhat yellower on the head: forehead yellowish green to greenish yellow, centre of crown washed with blue. (There is one feather on the crown, just above the forehead, yellow with an orange tip. Whether this is normal or not we cannot say.) Wings blackish, outer webs with narrow green edges, inner webs edged with olive-brown. Central pair of rectrices blue with black shaft; next pair of rectrices black on the inner webs, tip greenish blue, outer webs bluish green with a black patch, following pair black, broad apical portion green with a yellow spot on the inner web, the two lateral pairs with the outer web green, inner web black, apical third to fifth yellow. Underside yellowish green, darker and purer green on the thighs and flanks; feathers on the cheeks with pale blue tips, under tail-coverts yellow with wide green tips. Under wing coverts yellowish green. "Iris pale red, feet pale bluish slate, bill dark slate-colour." Wing 60, tail (with free end of shaft) 28½, bare portion of shaft about 3—4½, tarsus 7½, middle toes 13, bill (end of cere to tip) 7 mm. (No. 3386, Meek coll.)

♀. Like the male, but cheek-feathers orange, underside perhaps slightly more yellowish. The markings on the rectrices vary a little, but agree essentially with those in the male. Wings 58—62 mm. (Nos. 3386, 3385, 3500, Meek coll.)

The *Nasiterna* from Kulambangra (Nov. Zool. 1901. p. 188) differs, and we name it:—

***Nasiterna tristrami* sp. nov.**

Like *N. nanina*, but differs as follows: It is much larger; the bill longer and wider; the centre of the crown of a darker and more grassy green than the rest of the head, but without any blue tinge. The male has narrower and much paler, less conspicuous bluish tips to the feathers of the cheeks. Wing ♂ (Nos. 2863, 2862, Meek coll.) 66—67, ♀ (Nos. 2785, 2849, Meek coll.) wings 61—62; bill (end of cere to tip) ♂ 11, ♀ 8 mm.; tail 27—29½ mm.

Hab. Kulambangra (type ♂ No. 2863), named in honour of Canon Tristram, to whom we owe much of our knowledge of the ornis of the Solomon Islands.

It must be added that *Nasiterna nanina* is most closely allied to *N. aolae* from Guadaleanar, from which it differs in its smaller size, and (if the colours in our *N. nanina* are fully developed) in the lesser extent of the blue area on the crown and cheeks. In the Kulambangra birds there is evidently no blue at all on the crown. The wings of *N. aolae* measure about 64—66 mm.

[All the *Nasiternae* from the Solomon Islands (i.e., *N. aolae*, *N. nanina* and *N. tristrami*—we do not yet know *N. finschi*) are apparently best named trinomially, as subspecies of one species.]

Although we have received five species of *Psittaci* from Ysabel, it seems

peculiar that no form of *Trichoglossus* or *Hypocharmosyna* was found by Meek on that large island.

The very interesting *Hypocharmosyna meeki* from Kulambangra, described by us in *NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE* 1901, p. 187, is figured on Pl. VII, fig. 3.

39. *Astur rufoschistaceus* sp. nov.

Astur supra schistaceo-canis, subtus rufocinnamomeus, capitis lateribus et gula superiore cinereis. ♂ al. 220—223, caud. 182—185, tars. 55; ♀ al. 245—251, caud. 205—210, tars. 62 mm.

Hab. Insula Ysabel dicta, archipel. Salomonis.

Typus ♂ (No. 13,307), Ysabel 17. vi. 1901, A. S. Meek coll.

In *Nov. Zool.* VIII. 1901, p. 380, we have already shown that *Astur pulchellus* and *Astur shebae* are doubtless one and the same bird. We came, however, to an erroneous conclusion, saying that the birds with light and dark under wing-coverts were the same!

Our fresh material (eight examples from Ysabel) proves that there are two different species, differing in colouration and size, so that the *female* of one is about of the size of the *male* of the other, while the *male* of the smaller species is much smaller than any *males* of the large one. The two species are as follows:—

A. *Astur pulchellus* Rams.

Smaller, the rufous-cinnamon underside perhaps a shade paler, also the throat a little paler, less schistaceous. Primaries and secondaries dark slate-colour, bases of primaries for about one-third or more white on the inner webs, narrowly barred with black. Under wing-coverts whitish, mottled with grey, sometimes tinged with rufous, or with a cinnamon patch near the edge; thighs greyish white, often washed with cinnamon, or quite cinnamon, but always much paler than the breast. "Iris reddish brown, feet orange, bill black." ♀. Wing 209—220, tail 160—170, tarsus 58—60, Nos. 2903 and 3085, Guadaleanar, Meek coll.; ♂. (type of *A. shebae*, British Museum) wing 186 mm. The type of *A. pulchellus* is said to have come from "Cape Pitt," which is on New Georgia, while the British Museum has it from Guadaleanar, and we have it from Guadaleanar and Florida.

B. *Astur rufoschistaceus* nobis.

Larger, the rufous-cinnamon underside perhaps of a deeper tint, the throat dark grey. (Whole upperside uniform slate-grey, sides of head and upper throat paler grey. Whole under surface, including the under wing-coverts, thighs, and under tail-coverts uniform deep rufous-cinnamon. The primaries and secondaries are uniform slate-colour throughout, only the *males* show a few, often indistinct, white bars at the utmost bases of the primaries. ♀. Wing 245—251, tail 205—210, tars. 62. ♂. Wing 220—223, tail 182—185, tars. 55 mm. "Iris dark reddish brown, feet bright orange, bill black."

Type Ysabel. We have a series from Ysabel Island. In the British Museum is a "male" with the wing only 200 mm. from Alu (C. M. Woodford coll.) which agrees perfectly with our Ysabel specimens; also one from "Rubiana" (C. M. Woodford coll.), marked "♀," wing 218 mm. This must be wrongly "sexed," unless it belongs to a third form! It agrees with our *rufoschistaceus*, but the throat

is still darker, and the back apparently also darker, but being somewhat dirty, in worn plumage, and of older date, it is quite possible that the differences are only due to its condition.

The young of *A. rufoschistaceus*, and evidently also those of *A. pulchellus*, are above brown, with rusty edges to the feathers, tail brownish grey with blackish bars, underside whitish, patched with brown, marked lengthways on the throat and breast, more or less crossways on the abdomen, thighs more or less rufous. (An evidently young bird from Ysabel [No. 3248, Meek coll.], marked "female," wing 213 mm., is above much more rufous, washed with cinnamon, the underside whitish cream, barred across throughout with rufous-brown! Its bill is longer than that of *males* of *A. rufoschistaceus*. It seems to belong to another species, but we could not say which.)

40. *Baza gurneyi* Rams.

Baza gurneyi Rams., *Journ. Linn. Soc. Zool.* xvi. (1881) p. 130 (Solomon Islands).

One fine specimen from Ysabel. "Iris yellow."

41. *Pseudoptynx solomonensis* Hart.

Pseudoptynx solomonensis Hartert, *Bull. B. O. C.* xii. November 1901. p. 25 (Ysabel, Solomon Islands).

Rufous, above with wide blackish longitudinal and transverse markings, underside with longitudinal shaft-stripes, wider on chest and breast, narrower on the abdomen. Feathers on the sides of breast and on the abdomen and flanks, with wide darker rufous, but not very distinct, cross-bars. Rectrices rufous, the lateral ones regularly, the central ones irregularly, barred across with deep brown, inner webs the same as the outer ones. Stiff feathers on chin white, the outer ones rufous with blackish shaft-stripes, occupying the greater part of the feathers. Stiff feathers in front of eyes whitish, a blackish ring round the eye. Facial disc surrounded by a blackish semi-ring. Primaries dark brown with large rufous patches on both webs, which increase on the secondaries, so that the latter may be described as rufous with deep brown irregular cross-bars and wide median lines of the same colour. Under wing-coverts rufous, spotted with deep brown. Thighs and feathering of metatarsus uniform rufous, the latter feathered right down to the toes. Toes "yellowish white," quite bare, claws brown. "Iris brownish yellow, bill umber, slate-colour at base." Wing 300, tail 170, metatarsus 60, middle toe without claw 45, bill 45 mm.

"♀" ad., Ysabel Island, 9. vii. 1902. A. S. Meek coll.

Only this one specimen of this remarkable owl has been obtained. Mr. Meek writes that it took his party weeks to get it, though it was heard very often.

This form is quite unexpected on the Solomons, its nearest ally being *Pseudoptynx gurneyi* (and *Pseudoptynx philippinensis*) from the Philippine Islands. The most striking difference from the Philippine species is in the black markings of the back and wing-coverts, which in the two Philippine forms have only wide central black stripes, while these markings in *P. solomonensis* are narrower and have a number of cross-bars, more or less irregular in shape. The buffy longitudinal stripes caused by the buffy outer edgings to the scapulars and outer series of

wing-coverts in the Philippine species are absent in *P. solomonensis*. The under surface is as dark in *P. gurneyi*, darker than in *P. philippinensis*, and the abdomen and feathering of the legs is as dark as the chest.

42. *Ninox jacquinoti* (Bp.).

Althene jacquinoti Bp., *Consp. Ar.* i. (1850) p. 42 (ex Hombron, hab. "Oceania" = sic! Loc. "San Jorge, Iles Salomon," *vide* Jacq. et Puch.).

A very large series of this owl from Ysabel Island. There is a good deal of variation. The band of deep brown spots across the chest is seldom so full as in the figure in the Atlas of the *Voyage au Pôle Sud*, by Hombron and Jacquinot, but it is generally more or less widely interrupted in the middle. The colour of the underside varies from whitish buff to light brown. The feathers on the sides of the abdomen have mostly some more or less distinct dark shaft-lines. The middle rectrices are mostly distinctly barred across with narrow rufous or ochraceous bars, but sometimes quite uniform. The wings measure from 192 to 213 mm. "Iris bright yellow, feet pale lemon-yellow (tarsus feathered to the toes, toes bare with frequent stiff hairs), bill umber, smudged with yellow" (A. S. Meek). The young in down (about three-quarters grown, wings and tail nearly fully-developed) is dull brownish black all over, on the abdomen are some whitish patches.

(Mr. C. M. Woodford sent us an owl from Florida Island, shot in August 1898. It is certainly not *Ninox granti*, which inhabits the neighbouring island of Guadaleanar, but either *N. jacquinoti* or a new form. It differs from *N. jacquinoti* in being slightly larger and perhaps spotted all over the abdomen. More specimens in better preparation are required to decide about this bird.)

43. *Ptilinopus lewisi* Rams.

Ptilopous lewisi Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales* vi. (1881) p. 724 (ex *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales* iv. [1879] pp. 73, 74. "Lango; Guadaleanar").

A series from Ysabel Islands.

44. *Carpophaga pristinaria* Bp.

Carpophaga pristinaria Bp., *Consp. Ar.* ii. (1854) p. 36 ("Mus. Paris a Zelée ex ins. Sti. Georg. Arch. Salomonis").

Ysabel and Treasury Is. "Iris dark red, feet bright purplish red, bill, bluish slate."

45. *Carpophaga rufigula* Salvad.

Carpophaga rufigula Salvad., *Atti R. Acc. Sc. Torino* xiii. (1878) p. 536 (San Christoval, Solomon Is.).

Four specimens, agreeing with those from Guadaleanar and Kulambangra.

46. *Macropygia rufa rufocastanea* Rams.

[*Macropygia rufa* Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales* ii. (1878) p. 287 (Havannah Harbour, Sandwich I., New Hebrides).]

Macropygia rufocastanea Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales* iv. (1879) p. 314 (Solomon Is., typ. Lango, Guadaleanar, ex *Proc. Linn. Soc.* iv. p. 73).

A very fine adult male from Ysabel. Wing 44, tail 55 mm. "Iris red, feet bright red, bill vandyke-brown."

47. **Chalcophaps stephani mortoni** Rams.

[*Chalcophaps stephani* Rehb., *Vollst. Nat. d. Tauben*, etc. (1851) p. 47 (Celebes, Westl. Neu-Guinea, etc. Therefore typical loc. : Celebes).]

Chalcophaps mortoni Rams., *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W.* vi. (1881) (Ugi).

One male.

48. **Megapodius duperreyii eremita** Hartl.

[*Megapodius duperreyii* Less. & Garn., *Bull. Sci. Nat.* viii. p. 113 (1826: Dorey, New Guinea).]

Megapodius eremita Hartl., *P. Z. S.* 1867, p. 830 (Echiquier or Bougainville Is.).

♂ ♀. Ysabel. "Iris brown. Feet turkey umber. Bill yellowish green horn."

The eggs measure 80 : 48½ and 80·4 : 9½ mm.

49. **Esacus magnirostris** (Vieill.).

Oedienemus magnirostris Vieillot, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* xxiii. (1818) p. 231 ("La Nouvelle Hollande").

♂ ♀ ♀. June 1901, Ysabel.

50. **Numenius phaeopus variegatus** (Scop.).

[*Scolopax phaeopus* Linn., *Syst. Nat.* ed. x. (1758) p. 146 ("hab. in Europa" —typ. loc. Suecia : ex Fauna Suecica).]

Tantalus variegatus Scopoli, *Del. Flor. et Faun. Insubr.* ii. p. 92 (1786 : ex Sonnerat, Luçon).

♀. 13. vi. 1901, Ysabel.

51. **Tringoides hypoleucus** (L.).

Tringa hypoleucus Linn., *Syst. Nat.* ed. x. (1758) p. 149 ("hab. in Europa" —typ. loc. Suecia : ex Fauna Suecica).

♀ ♀. June 1901, Ysabel.

52. **Demiegretta sacra** (Gm.).

Ardea sacra Gm., *Syst. Nat.* i. (1788) p. 640 (ex Latham, hab. Otaheite).

Two males, from Ysabel, of enormous dimensions, possibly belonging to another subspecies. Bills 91, height of bill in the middle 14—15, wing 298—308 mm.

53. **Nycticorax mandibularis** Grant.

Nycticorax mandibularis Grant, *P. Z. S.* 1888, p. 203 (Aola, Guadalcanar).

"♀" ad. "Iris bright yellow, feet straw-yellow, bill dark straw-yellow below." Wing 270 mm.

"♂" juv. "Iris bright yellow, feet sage green, bill black, underneath yellowish."

54. **Butorides stagnatilis** (Gould).

Ardetta stagnatilis Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1847, p. 221 (Port Essington, Australia).

♀. Ysabel, 7. vi. 1901.

55. **Anas superciliosa** Gm.

Anas superciliosa Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. p. 537 (1788 : Nova Seelandia).

♂. Ysabel, 13. vi. 1901.

56. *Sterna dougalli gracilis* Gould.

[*Sterna dougalli* Mont., *Orn. Dict. Suppl.* fig. (no pagination) 1813 (rocky islands in the Firth of Clyde called Cumbrae Islands).]

Sterna gracilis Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1845, p. 76 (Houtman's Abrolhos).

Six adult specimens, with wings measuring 115—124 mm. Specimens from Australia and the Papau region are generally smaller than typical *dougalli*, and must be separated as a subspecies.

A great many eggs were taken on July 10, 1901 on Ysabel Island. According to Mr. Meek there was only one egg in each clutch! Whether that is the full number of the clutches there is not certain, but from the big holes in the eggs I should judge that it was. The number of eggs in the clutches of these birds is remarkable. In northern countries (Europe), and even in the hot climate of the West Indies (where one of us, Hartert, took many eggs on Aruba), *Sterna dougalli* has usually three eggs in a clutch, sometimes two only (all clutches on Aruba consisted of **three** eggs each). Campbell (*Nests and Eggs Austral. B.* p. 834) says that on the Abrolhos he found only **two** in a clutch, while now Meek found only one in a clutch. Probably the number of eggs in the clutches of the subspecies *gracilis* is less. The eggs from Ysabel vary as usual very much, and measure 40 : 29, 41 : 28½, 40½ : 28½, 40 : 28½, 44½ : 28½, 41 : 28½, 42¾ : 28½, 40¾ : 30, 44½ : 30½, 41 : 28½, 40 : 28¾, 41 : 29½, 39½ : 28½, 40¾ : 28, 39 : 28½, and so on.

57. *Sterna bergii* Licht.

Sterna bergii Licht., *Verz. Doubl.* p. 80 (1823 : Cape of Good Hope).

Ysabel, 25. vi., 8. vii. 1901.

58. *Micranous leucocapillus* (Gould).

Anous leucocapillus Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1845, p. 103 (Raine I., N. Australia).

♂ ♀ fere adult, Ysabel, 2. vii. 1901.

LIST OF A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS MADE BY
MR. A. S. MEEK ON TREASURY ISLAND, SOLOMON
ISLANDS.

BY THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD AND ERNST HARTERT.

1. *Edoliisoma erythropygium saturatius* Roths. & Hart. ♂ ♀ (cf. *antea* p. 582).
2. *Myiagra ferrocyanea* Rams. ♂ ♂ ♀.
3. *Hirundo tahitica* Gm. ♀.
4. *Mino kreffti* (Sel.) ♂ ♂ ♀.
5. *Halcyon sanctus* Vig. & Horsf. ♂ ♀.
6. *Alcedo ispida ispidoides* Less. ♂ ♂ ♀.

(Some specimens from the Solomon Islands are of a most brilliant blue above.)

7. *Eos cardinalis* (Gray) ♂.
8. *Chalcorhaphs stephani mortoni* Rams. ♂.
9. *Carpophaga prasinaria* Bp. ♀.
10. *Ninoe jacquinoti* (Bp.). A fine series.